

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 912

UNCLAS CARACAS 7104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, VE

SUBJ: YACAMBU DAM

REF: STATE 159829

1. YACAMBU PROJECT CONSISTS OF WATER TRANSFER, COLLECTION AND RE-DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO TAKE WATER FROM RAIN-RICH LARA STATE BASIN AND YACAMBU RIVER FOR DISTRIBUTION INTO STEPPE-CLIMATE LANDS OF BARQUISIMETO-EL TOCUYO-QUIBOR ARE NORTH-WEST OF PLANNED RESERVOIR.

2. RESERVOIR DAM TO BE ARCH TYPE, CONCRETE, 170 METERS HIGH, ANTI-SEISMIC CONSTRUCTION WITH SPILLWAYS HALF WAY UP AND OVER THE TOP. RESERVOIR TO BE 9 KILOMETERS LONG, 1 KILOMETER WIDE AND 170 METERS DEEP. ANNUAL TRANSFER CAPACITY TO BE 350 MILLION CUBIC METERS.

3. WATER TRANSFER BY 24 KILOMETER LONG TUNNEL ACROSS DIVIDING RIDGES, UNDERNEATH TURBIO RIVER VALLEY, BEGINNING ABOVE LAKE AT LATERAL STREAM CALLED QUEBRADA NEGRA, TO WORK LIKE PRESSURE PIPE FED BY VARIOUS PUMPING STATIONS. DIAMETER 3.5 METER, ACCESS PIT WITH WINDOW AT HALFWAY POINT NEAR TURBIO RIVER. ENTRY FACILITIES AT BOTH ENDS. SMALL DAMS OF EARTH CONSTRUCTION FOR REGULATION OF FIXED CONTRIBUTION OF TUNNEL AND DAILY DEMAND TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN UPPER PART OF QUIBOR VALLEY. HYDROELECTRIC PLANT WITH CAPACITY FROM 200-685 MW DEPENDING ON ALTERNATIVES POSSIBLE TO BE INSTALLED

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AT OUTLET END OF TUNNEL.

4. WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BY CANALS TO IRRIGATE 20,000 HECTARES OF LAND AND BY DEEP WELLS FILLED BY INFILTRATION FOR IRRIGATION OF ANOTHER 6-8,000 HECTARES. CITY OF BARQUISIMETO TO RECEIVE 3,000 LITERS SECOND.

5. ENTIRE PROJECT HAS NOT GONE BEYOND INITIAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES. PROJECT IS BEING PROMOTED BY CORPORACION DE DESARROLLO DE LA REGION CENTRO-OCCIDENTAL (CORPOOCCIDENTE), EDIFICIO CENTRO CIVICO PROFESIONAL, CARRERA 16, BARQUISIMETO, ESTADO LARA, VENEZUELA. TOTAL COST ESTIMATED BS. 260 MILLION. CORPOOCCIDENTE INTENDS TO FINANCE THE PROJECT THROUGH PUBLIC BONDS ISSUE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED YET. CORPOOCCIDENTE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT FEASIBILITY STUDIES CONTINUING.

6. EMBASSY FEELS THAT THIS ONE OF MANY PROJECTS CONSIDERED BY VARIOUS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND THAT EXECUTION NOT CERTAIN IN NEAR FUTURE.
MCCLINTOCK

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